

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 MC-02 /059 W

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O 111029Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 801

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

DEFENSE SECURITY ASST AGENCY WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2401

DOD FOR ASD: ISA

DSAA FOR VIOLETTE

USCINCEUR FOR ECJ2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS PFOR ETRD SZ

SUBJECT: NORTHROP ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AND LOCAL NORTHROP REP JUNE 10 RE DRAFT MOU CONCERNING OFFSET CONNECTED WITH F-5-E PURCHASE (SEPTTEL), GROSSENBACHER, CHIEF OF SWISS ARMAMENTS AGENCY (GRD) REFERRED TO STORIES IN SWISS PRESS OVER PAST FEW DAYS BASED ON US SOURCES RE FINANCIAL PAYMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES BY NORTHROP CORP. WHICH ALLEGEDLY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN SWITZERLAND. GROSSENBACHER SAID THAT SUCH ARTICLES COME AT PARTICULARLY BAD TIME GIVEN APPROACHING DECISION ON WHETHER PURCHASE NORTHROP F-5-E, AND THAT IT ESSENTIAL THAT MATTER BE CLARIFIED COMPLETELY IN VERY NEAR FUTURE RATHER THAN BE ALLOWED DRAG ON AT LENGTH, WITH POSSIBLY EVEN MORE DAMAGING REVELATIONS AT LATER DATE.

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2. GROSSENBACHER THEN MADE FORMAL ORAL REQUEST FOR LETTER

OR OTHER WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM EMBASSY EITHER SAYING THAT
NO IMPROPRIETIES INVOLVING SWISS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR
OTHER NATIONALS HAD OCCURRED OR INDICATING EXACTLY WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE

SIMILAR REQUEST HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE TO NORTHROP AND
LOCAL REP (HAENKE) IS IN PROCESS ATTEMPTING OBTAIN SUCH
A LETTER FROM NORTHROP/US. GROSSENBACHER EMPHASIZED THAT
SINCE PROPOSED CONTRACT AND ALL OFFICIAL CONTACTS FE F-5-E
HAD BEEN ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL HE FELT IT
WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO DEFUSE ISSUE THAT STATEMENT BE
MADE BY USG AS WELL AS BY NORTHROP.

3. GROSSENBACHER SAID GRD HAD NO REASON, EXCEPT FOR PRESS
STORIES, TO BELIEVE THERE WERE ANY IMPROPRIETIES IN WAY
NORTHROP HAD CONDUCTED F-5-E BUSINESS IN SWITZERLAND. HE
SAID THAT TO BEST HIS KNOWLEDGE SWISS MILITARY NOT PREVIOUSLY
ACQUAINTED WITH ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT CORP./ZUG, HUBER
WEISBROD/ZURICH, DR. ANDREAS FRORIEP/ZURICH, OR OTHERS WHO
HAVE BEEN LINKED BY PRESS WITH NORTHROP. HE ALSO INDICATED
THAT NORTHROP ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN
SWITZERLAND RELATING TO SALES IN THIRD COUNTRIES WERE PER-
HAPS UNFORTUNATE BUT NOT OF CONCERN TO GRD WHICH WAS ONLY
INTERESTED IN SWISS ASPECT, I.E. MATTERS DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH PROPOSED F-5-E SALE.

4. GROSSENBACHER WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER
DURING HIS JUNE 13 VISIT DOD.

5. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO GROSSENBACHER
REQUEST AND BE ABLE INFORM GOS THAT TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE
NO IMPROPRIETIES ARE INVOLVED IN PROPOSED SALE OF F-5-E
TO SWITZERLAND. PERHAPS BEST TECHNIQUE WOULD BE TO TAKE
NOTE OF STATEMENT WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE MADE BY NORTHROP,
AND CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE OF
ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD CAUSE CONCERN TO SWISS GOVERNMENT.
SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT ASK NORTHROP/WASHINGTON FOR
LETTER OR STATEMENT IT PLANS GIVE TO GRD AND INSTRUCT
EMBASSY ON COURSE WE SHOULD FOLLOW. IN ADDITION, WE
COULD PERHAPS CONFIRM TO GOS IN BERN RESPONSE GIVEN TO
GROSSENBACHER WHEN HE RAISES SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALES, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERN02401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750203-0503
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750658/aaaacatb.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHROP ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ETRD, SZ, NORTHROP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006